

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8742

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN RO
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON GHEORGHE BADESCU

1. SUMMARY. ON MARCH 28, AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY CONSUL, CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE, GEORGHE BADESCU, TO REVIEW EMIGRATION TRENDS AND OTHER CONSULAR MATTERS AND TO PRESENT NEW REPRESENTATION LIST. BADESCU, AFTER REVIEWING ROMANIAN POLICIES ON THE SUBJECT AND EVISAGING SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS OVER TIME FOR ALL CASES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, GAVE AMBASSADOR APPROVAL LIST OF 35 CASES, INCLUDING 81 PERSONS. LIST IS BEING ANALYZED AND ANNOTATED AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL. COPIES OF LATEST REPLIST AND APPROVAL LIST BEING POUCHED TO DEPT. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR OPENED CONVERSATION BY REVIEWING THE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY STATE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND POINTING OUT HIS PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL INTEREST IN CONSULAR AFFAIRS. HE INDICATED THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN CUTTING DELAYS AND SOLVING MUTUAL PROBLEMS, AND IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AND HIS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, WISHES TO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE, WITH THE GOR'S COOPERATION AND GOOD WILL, AS MANY OUTSTANDING CASES AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT DURING HIS CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PACOSTE

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LAST JANUARY, HE HAD ROUNDED OUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ROMANIAN POLICIES ON IMMIGRATION, MARRIAGES, AND DUAL NATIONALS, AND THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN MANY CASES. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE NEW REPRESENTATION LIST, SINCE THIS MATTER IS IMPORTANT FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH, CONGRESS, THE PRESS, AND PUBLIC OPINION. AMBASSADOR ALSO INDICATED

THAT DURING PAST NINE MONTHS, WE HAVE NOTED DECREASE IN THE APPROVAL RATE FROM OUR REPLY AND THAT THIS WAS OF CONCERN. ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED REPLY TO APRIL 7 NOTE DEALING WITH TREATMENT OF DUAL NATIONALS VISITING ROMANIA AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITIES OF NEGOTIATING COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON DUAL NATIONALS IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. BADESCU REPLIED THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO MEET AMBASSADOR AND TO NOTE HIS INTEREST IN CONSULAR MATTERS WHICH ARE, AFTER ALL, HUMAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITHOUT SOLUTIONS AND WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN FIND SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS. ON EMIGRATION, WHILE HE DID NOT DISPUTE EMBASSY STATISTICS, HE SAID THAT NUMBERS DO NOT SHOW THE ENTIRE PICTURE, AND AS ROMANIA IS NOT A COUNTRY OF EMIGRATION, FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING RESOLVED.

4. IN LONG REITERATION OF ROMANIAN POLICY DISCOURAGING EMIGRATION AND MIXED MARRIAGES, BADESCU COMPARED STRUCTURES IN ROMANIAN POLICY ON THOSE QUESTIONS TO DIFFICULTIES ROMANIANS ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR THE U.S., NOTING GOR DISPLEASURE WITH VIENNA AND ROME EMIGRATION ROUTES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND HIS DIRECTORATE WERE EXCELLENT AND WORKING-LEVEL SOLUTIONS WERE FOUND TO MANY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS. BADESCU PLEDGED HIS PERSONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT IN CONTINUING THIS COOPERATION. THE IMPORTANT THING, BADESCU SAID, IS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO HUMAN PROBLEMS.

5. ON MARRIAGES, ONE PROBLEM, HE WENT ON, IS THAT BY LAW THEY MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CONCIL OF STATE, A LENGTHY AND COMPLICATED PROCESS. ADDITIONALLY, GOR WISHES TO MAKE

SURE THAT THE MARRIAGE WILL BE A STABLE ONE BOTH EMOTIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY BEFORE GIVING APPROVAL. HOWEVER, HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO SOLVE AS MANY OF THE OUTSTANDING CASES AS POSSIBLE IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. BADESCU SPOKE ON DUAL NATIONAL PROBLEMS NEXT INDICATING THAT WE WILL SOON RECEIVE A REPLY TO OUR APRIL NOTE AND THAT ANY NEW PROPOSALS WE MAKE WILL BE EXAMINED WITH ATTENTION AND WITH VIEW TO REACTING MUTUALLY AGREEABLE UNDERSTANDING.

7. IN CLOSING, BADESCU MENTIONED VISA FACILITATION AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED LAST FALL AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SINCE THE FIRST STEP IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN MADE, OTHERS WILL BE MADE IN FUTURE. BADESCU ALSO STATED THAT HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO GIVE US ANOTHER

APPROVAL LIST BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE.

8. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS ROMANIAN SYSTEM AND PROBLEMS AND THAT TO IMPROVE TOTAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, PROGRESS IN CONSULAR MATTERS MUST BE BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY, HE SAID, AND WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH BADESCU FROM TIME TO TIME TO REVIEW PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

AGGREY

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